

REMARKSAmendments

Claims 6-10 and 16 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 17 has been amended to include the raised central mesa feature of allowed claims 6 and 10. New claim 21 has been added. Basis is found in original claims 3, 4, 15 and 20. Claims 1-5, 11-15 have been canceled. These amendments have been made in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope to the unamended claims in one or more continuation applications.

The Rejection Under 35 USC § 103(a)

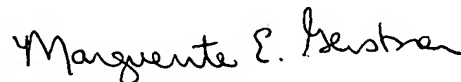
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-5, 11-15, and 17-20 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagahori (U.S. Patent No. 5,039,844) in view of Wartenberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,747,147), insofar as the rejection is applicable to the amended claims.

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 have been canceling, rendering this rejection moot for those claims. Claims 17-20 have been amended to incorporate features (i.e. a weld plate having a raised central mesa region, an insulative box exposing the central mesa region) that the Examiner has indicated are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, it is believed that claims 17-20 are also allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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